

A2 4. ~~6.~~ (Amended) The end shield of claim 1 wherein [the end plate includes first and second layers,] the second layer including a plurality of radially extending arms, the annular ring including a corresponding number of slots, the arms adapted to be received through the slots and rotated along with the first layer relative to the annular ring to removably lock the end plate in position.

A3 5. ~~6.~~ (Amended) The end shield of claim 1 wherein [the end plate includes first and second layers,] the second layer includ[ing]es a plurality of elastically deformable and radially extending arms, the arms adapted to be deformed under the annular ring to secure the end plate to the motor.

Please cancel ~~claims~~ 11-19.

Please add the following new claims:

A4 11. ~~20.~~ A hydraulic pump-motor, comprising:
a pump contained in a body;
a motor including a rotor and a stator, the stator supported by the body, the rotor mechanically linked to the pump and supported for rotation only by the body;
a motor housing having first and second open ends, the body closing the first open end; and
an end shield closing the second open end, the end shield not supporting the rotor in any way, being completely free of the rotor and covering the radial span of the stator such that the shield is subject to a potential drum reverberation effect, the end shield further including a central mass disrupting the shape of the end shield to diminish the potential drum reverberation effect.

12. ~~21.~~ The hydraulic pump-motor of claim ~~20~~¹¹ wherein the end shield is manufactured from a material selected from the group consisting of cast iron and plastic.

13. ~~22.~~ A hydraulic pump-motor, comprising:
a pump contained in a body;
a motor including a rotor and a stator, the stator supported by the body, the rotor mechanically linked to the pump and supported for rotation only by the body;
a motor housing having first and second open ends, the body closing the first open end; and

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an end shield closing the second open end, the end shield not supporting the rotor in any way, being completely free of the rotor and covering the radial span of the stator such that the shield is subject to a potential drum reverberation effect, the end shield being constructed from multiple pieces to diminish the potential drum reverberation effect, including:

- (a) a metal annular ring secured to the motor housing and extending radially inward from the motor housing to cover a portion of the motor; and
- (b) a plastic end plate secured to the metal ring and substantially closing the second open end.

¹⁴
~~23~~. The end shield of claim ¹³~~22~~ wherein the plastic end plate includes first and second layers, the metal annular ring being sandwiched between the first and second layers.

¹⁵
~~24~~. The end shield of claim ¹³~~22~~ wherein the annular ring has an outer circumference and a plurality of downwardly depending fingers positioned to frictionally engage an inner surface of motor housing.

¹⁶
~~25~~. The end shield of claim ¹⁴~~23~~ wherein the annular ring includes an annular ridge positioned to engage outer circumferences of the first and second layers and thereby prevent lateral movement of the end plate relative to the motor.

¹⁷
~~26~~. The end shield of claim ¹⁴~~23~~ wherein the first and second layers are secured together by at least one fastener.

REMARKS

The Office Action dated September 20, 1999 has been carefully considered. The Office Action set forth rejections under § 112 based on indefiniteness as well as claim rejections on the prior art. The Examiner indicated that claims 2 and 4-10 contained allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten to overcome the § 112 rejections and to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In the present amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 6, and 9, has canceled claims 11-19, and has added new claims 20-26. It is noted that claims 20 and 22 contain similar subject matter as that in original claim 11 and as such the rejection of claim 11 will be addressed for these claims. Claims 1-10 and 20-26 remain in the present application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the patent application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.